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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Ineligibility for the oppressor states of human rights defenders

The LICRA (International League against Racism and anti-Semitism) has been fighting to promote human rights for over eighty years. It knows well the extraordinary capabilities that the human rights activists on the ground must have in order to make things happen, even in a democracy like France, with its arsenal of laws that protect human rights. The LICRA is therefore very concerned by the various attacks coming from certain States against individuals or NGO who co-operate with the United Nations in the field of human rights.

The history of each country is different, as is the level of human rights protection around the world. There is no country, however democratic it may be today, with a spotless past and so no country can permit itself to criticize another.

It is nevertheless the role and the responsibility of the international community to prod those States that do not afford sufficient protections to their own people to strive to achieve the level of other States that do. That is why we propose that any state guilty of acts of intimidation or reprisals against individuals or NGO who co-operate with the United Nations in the field of human rights be declared INELIGIBLE to sit on the Human Rights Council. This would also help make the work of the Human Rights Council more credible by ensuring that its members comply with the required responsibilities of the Human Rights Council, namely: promote and protect human rights.